

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

* * *

MARGARET E. SAGER,
Plaintiff,
v.
DR. BRAWERS, et al.,
Defendants

Case No. 2:25-cv-00654-CDS-EJY

**ORDER
AND
REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION**

Pending before the Court are Plaintiff's incomplete application to proceed *in forma pauperis* ("IFP") and initiating documents the Court treats as an attempt to file a civil rights complaint. ECF Nos. 1, 1-1, 1-2, 1-3.

I. Plaintiff Failed to File an IFP Application in Compliance with Local Rules.

Plaintiff, who is involuntarily incarcerated, is seeking to proceed without prepaying filing fees. As such, she must submit three documents under Local Special Rule (“LSR”) 1-2. These documents include a complete application to proceed *in forma pauperis* on the Court’s form, a certificate from the institution certifying the amount of funds currently held in Plaintiff’s trust account, and net deposits in Plaintiff’s account for the six months before the date of submission of the application. LSR 1-1, 1-2. Plaintiff’s application is on the wrong form and she fails to include the additional documentation required under LSR 1-2. However, this failure is not the death knell to Plaintiff proceeding before the Court. Rather, even if the Court presumes Plaintiff can correct her non-compliant IFP application, the Court finds Plaintiff fails to state a cognizable claim.

23 || II. The Screening Standard

The Court is empowered to dismiss claims that are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a claim on which relief may be granted or seek monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(2). To survive dismissal a complaint must “contain sufficient factual matter, accepted as true, to state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face.” *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009). The court liberally construes pro se complaints and may only dismiss them

1 “if it appears beyond doubt that the plaintiff can prove no set of facts in support of his claim which
 2 would entitle him to relief.” *Nordstrom v. Ryan*, 762 F.3d 903, 908 (9th Cir. 2014) (quoting *Iqbal*,
 3 556 U.S. at 678).

4 Whether a complaint is sufficient to state a claim is determined by taking all allegations of
 5 material fact as true and construing these facts in the light most favorable to the plaintiff. *Wyler*
 6 *Summit P’ship v. Turner Broad. Sys. Inc.*, 135 F.3d 658, 661 (9th Cir. 1998) (citation omitted).
 7 Although the standard under Rule 12(b)(6) does not require detailed factual allegations, a plaintiff
 8 must provide more than mere labels and conclusions. *Bell Atlantic Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544,
 9 555 (2007). A formulaic recitation of the elements of a cause of action is insufficient. *Id.* Unless it
 10 is clear the complaint’s deficiencies could not be cured through amendment, a *pro se* plaintiff should
 11 be given leave to amend the complaint with notice regarding the complaint’s deficiencies. *Cato v.*
 12 *United States*, 70 F.3d 1103, 1106 (9th Cir. 1995).

13 A complaint should be dismissed for failure to state a claim upon which relief may be granted
 14 “if it appears beyond a doubt that the plaintiff can prove no set of facts in support of his claims that
 15 would entitle him to relief.” *Buckey v. Los Angeles*, 968 F.2d 791, 794 (9th Cir. 1992). A complaint
 16 may be dismissed as frivolous if it is premised on a nonexistent legal interest or delusional factual
 17 scenario. *Neitzke v. Williams*, 490 U.S. 319, 327-28 (1989). Moreover, “a finding of factual
 18 frivolousness is appropriate when the facts alleged rise to the level of the irrational or the wholly
 19 incredible, whether or not there are judicially noticeable facts available to contradict them.” *Denton*
 20 *v. Hernandez*, 504 U.S. 25, 33 (1992). When a court dismisses a complaint, the plaintiff should be
 21 given leave to amend with directions as to curing its deficiencies, unless it is clear from the face of
 22 the complaint that the deficiencies could not be cured by amendment. See *Cato*, 70 F.3d at 1106.

23 **III. Plaintiff’s Initiating Documents Demonstrate her Claims Should be Dismissed with
 24 Prejudice**

25 A. Plaintiff’s Initiating Documents Violate Rule 8 of the Federal Rules of Civil
 26 Procedure.

27 Plaintiff’s Initiating Documents, styled as Motions to be Heard (ECF Nos. 1-1, 1-2), are 111
 28 pages long. There are no identified causes of action and no prayer for relief. *Id.* Plaintiff fails to
 present factual allegation sufficient to state a plausible claim to which any defendant could respond.

1 *Hebbe v. Pliler*, 627 F.3d 338, 341-42 (9th Cir. 2010) (although pro se pleadings are construed
 2 liberally, a plaintiff must present factual allegations sufficient to state a plausible claim for relief);
 3 *Yamaguchi v. United States Department of Air Force*, 109 F.3d 1475, 1481 (9th Cir. 1997) (Rule 8
 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure requires a complaint to plead sufficient facts to give a
 5 defendant fair notice of the claims against him and the grounds upon which it rests) (citations
 6 omitted).

7 Further, Rule 8(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure requires a “short and plain
 8 statement of the claim showing that the pleader is entitled to relief.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a)(2). Rule
 9 8(d)(1) states that “[e]ach allegation must be simple, concise, and direct.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 8(a)(3)
 10 states that a complaint must include “a demand for relief sought” A complaint having the factual
 11 elements of a cause of action scattered throughout the complaint and not organized into a “short and
 12 plain statement of the claim” may be dismissed for failure to satisfy Rule 8(a). *See Sparling v.*
 13 *Hoffman Constr. Co.*, 864 F.2d 635, 640 (9th Cir. 1988); *see also McHenry v. Renne*, 84 F.3d 1172
 14 (9th Cir. 1996). Plaintiff meets none of these standards. That is, based on Plaintiff’s filings, it is
 15 impossible for the Court to reasonably decipher what it is she seeks as the result of her scattergun
 16 allegations of unrelated events. The documents filed at ECF Nos. 1-1 and 1-2 also do not provide
 17 fair notice to Defendants of any claim that may be defended.

18 B. Plaintiff Names County Public Defenders as Defendants.

19 To the extent Plaintiff seeks to sue county public defenders Arlene Heshmeti and Aaron
 20 Nancy (ECF No. 1 at 4), as well as Michael Stricland [sic] and Brigid Hoffman (ECF No. 1-1 at 7),
 21 these public defenders cannot be sued in a 42 U.S.C. § 1983 suit. *Polk County v. Dodson*, 454 U.S.
 22 312, 317-18 (1981); *West v. Atkins*, 487 U.S. 42 (1988) (when representing an indigent defendant in
 23 a state criminal proceeding, the public defender does not act under color of state law for purposes of
 24 Section 1983 because he/she is not acting on behalf of the state, but as the state’s adversary). Thus,
 25 all four of these Defendants must be dismissed with prejudice.

26 C. To the Extent Plaintiff Seeks to Challenge her Incarceration, her Claim is Barred.

27 To the extent Plaintiff complains she is being unfairly incarcerated at Stein Forensic Hospital
 28 (*see* ECF No. 1-1 at 1), her claims fail under *Heck v. Humphrey*, 512 U.S. 477, 481 (1994). In *Heck*,

1 the Supreme Court analyzed which types of claims can be brought under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. The
 2 Supreme Court held that habeas corpus is the exclusive remedy for a state prisoner who challenges
 3 the fact or duration of her confinement and seeks release. *Id.* (citing *Preiser v. Rodriguez*, 411 U.S.
 4 475, 488-490 (1973)). A prisoner “has no cause of action under § 1983 unless and until the
 5 conviction or sentence is reversed, expunged, invalidated, or impugned by the grant of a writ of
 6 habeas corpus.” *Id.* at 489. “It would wholly frustrate explicit congressional intent” to allow
 7 plaintiffs to evade the exhaustion requirement of an application for a writ of habeas corpus by
 8 labeling their request as a § 1983 claim. *Preiser*, 411 U.S. at 489-490. Federal courts must work to
 9 prevent prisoners from relying on § 1983 to subvert the different procedural requirements of habeas
 10 corpus proceedings under 28 U.S.C. § 2254. *Heck*, 512 U.S. at 486-87; *Simpson v. Thomas*, 528
 11 F.3d 685, 695 (9th Cir. 2008).

12 D. Portions of Plaintiff’s Claims are Delusional.

13 Plaintiff’s 88 page filing is a long stream of unrelated propositions resulting in an irrational
 14 and indecipherable set of allegations that cannot support any claim for relief. That is, setting aside
 15 Plaintiff’s failure to plead a single identifiable claim under Rule 8 of the Federal Rules of Civil
 16 Procedure, naming public defenders who are not subject to suit under § 1983, and the *Heck v.*
 17 *Humphrey* bar to any effort by Plaintiff to attack her incarceration, Plaintiff’s claims are delusional
 18 and therefore cannot proceed. Stated very succinctly, Plaintiff’s filings include a number of coloring
 19 book styled pictures (ECF No. 1-1 at 10, 12 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24), together with references to
 20 unconnected strings of thought regarding her arson charge, a paternity suit, President Obama, a job
 21 at Clark County School District, her son, and various state court judges (to identify a few of the
 22 things alleged). *Id.* at 15-19. The Court finds Plaintiff’s allegations so disparate and chaotic that
 23 amendment cannot cure their deficiency.

24 IV. **Order**

25 Accordingly, and based on the foregoing, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Plaintiff’s
 26 Application to Proceed *in forma pauperis* (ECF No. 1) is DENIED without prejudice.

V. Recommendation

IT IS HEREBY RECOMMENDED that Plaintiff's initiating documents, which the Court treats as a combination of ECF Nos. 1-1 and 1-2, but may also include ECF No. 1-3 (a Motion to Appeal), should be dismissed with prejudice as failing to comply with Rule 8 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, suing Defendants Arlene Heshmeti, Aaron Nancy, Michael Stricland, and Brigid Hoffman who cannot be sued as defendants in a 42 U.S.C. § 1983 suit, barred by *Heck v. Humphrey*, and is otherwise delusional.

Dated this 24th day of April, 2025.

Elayna J. Youchah
ELAYNA J. YOUCRAH
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE

NOTICE

Under Local Rule IB 3-2, any objection to this Report and Recommendation must be in writing and filed with the Clerk of the Court within fourteen (14) days. The Supreme Court holds the courts of appeal may determine that an appeal has been waived due to the failure to file objections within the specified time. *Thomas v. Arn*, 474 U.S. 140, 142 (1985). The Ninth Circuit also held that (1) failure to file objections within the specified time and (2) failure to properly address and brief the objectionable issues waives the right to appeal the District Court's order and/or appeal factual issues from the order of the District Court. *Martinez v. Ylst*, 951 F.2d 1153, 1157 (9th Cir. 1991); *Britt v. Simi Valley United Sch. Dist.*, 708 F.2d 452, 454 (9th Cir. 1983).